CITY HALL I

On March 15, 1851, the charter of the city of Carbondale, which was drawn up by the Honorable Lewis Jones, was approved by an act of the Assembly, and Carbondale became an incorporated city with four wards.

The following city officers were elected on March 21, 1851: MAYOR, James Archbald; SELECT COUNCIL, Joseph Benjamin, Peter Campbell, Thomas Gillespie, Michael Flynn; COMMON COUNCIL, Thomas Sweet, Daniel Scurry, William Ball, Patrick Moffitt, James Clarkson, W. W. Bronson, Edward Jones, Alexander Bryden, Richard Howarth, Terence Powderly, Patrick Connor, Daniel Thatcher; PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, George W. Perkins; CLERK OF THE MAYOR'S COURT, WILLIAM Brennan; TREASURER, Lewis Pughe; ASSESSOR, Philip Wilson; AUDITORS, William H. Richmond, James Stott, Thomas Voyle; POOR MASTERS, John Campbell, John Lee.

For the first year of its existence, the city government was housed, provisionally, in the Methodist Episcopal Church and in the Carbondale House. It was in that church, for example, that the oath of office was administered, on March 26, 1851, to the mayor, the clerk of court and the prosecuting attorney, by the Honorable William Jessup, president judge of the judicial district. Similarly, when the Select Council organized and chose Peter Campbell as president and Michael Flynn as clerk, and when the Common Council organized and chose James Clarkson as chairman and William Ball as secretary, they did so in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1852, Carbondale's first City Hall, a wooden building in the Greek Revival style, was erected at a cost of $3,000. This building, which was erected on the area occupied by the two-story wing of present-day Carbondale City Hall, served as Carbondale's City Hall until February 14, 1860, when, in a fire that originated in one of the prison cells in the building, the entire building was destroyed.

It was in Carbondale's first City Hall that the Mayor's Court, one of the earliest judicial bodies established in northeastern Pennsylvania, was held. This explains why this building is sometimes referred to as the Court House. The Mayor's Court, which was abolished on December 31, 1875, was provided for by the city's charter. This court was styled the recorder's court, and was presided over by the president judge of the judicial district sitting as recorder, assisted by the mayor and such of the aldermen as might be present.